Tuesday, *the* *14th December 1943* / *28th Vrischigam 1119*

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past eleven of the clock with the Honb'le the President (Sir G. T. BOAG, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.), in the Chair.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, and Messrs. V. J. Mathai and A. L. Antony were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IRON IMPLEMENTS—HIGH PRICE OF

1. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the very high price of Iron Implements for agricultural operations;

(*b*) in view of the inescapable nature of the expenditure to the agriculturist and in the interests of food cultivation will they be pleased to consider the desirability of having these indispensable implements available from the Government stock at reasonable prices?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)* :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Agriculture Department is stocking some implements and they are sold to the public at the cost price. Government are making arrangements to get down iron materials at cheap rates; when they are obtained implements will be supplied at reasonable prices.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: I don't put the question.

BIO-CHEMIST CLASS—TRAINING OF

2. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether there was any proposal from the Trichur Municipality to send an Officer fo training in the Bio-Chemist class at Bangalore;

(*b*) any Officer was deputed for the training; and

(*c*) if not, whether the services of a trained hand are not essential in regard to the preparation of suitable manure from rubbish collected out of the Municipal area?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)* :

(*a*) There was a proposal to send an Officer for training; but it did not originate from the Trichur Municipality.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The question is under consideration.

SLUMS—CLEARANCE OF

3. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)* : Will Government be pleased to state whether they are considering any proposals for the clearance of the slums in Ernakulam and Mattancheri?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : There are no proposals now under consideration. The question of improving the low-lying swampy areas in Ernakulam and Mattancheri has already engaged the attention of Government but it has been put off for consideration after the War.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know, Sir, whether there has been any scheme prepared for clearing the slums in Ernakulam and Mattancheri?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : Yes. There are schemes prepared.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : How long is it since it has been made ready?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : I think the Mattancheri scheme has been ready since 4 or 5 years.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: That is before the war started?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : The full scheme was ready after the war started.

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